

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 14, 2004 CONTACT: MARIL E. ALSUP Public Affairs Specialist (413) 253-4314 or maril.alsup@ma.usda.gov

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM BREAKS GROUND IN WHATELY

WHATELY – The Western Massachusetts Regional Library System's (WMRLS) Regional Administrator, John Ramsay and Operations Manager, Donna Augustus will host a groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, May 14, 2004 to celebrate the construction of their new headquarters.

WMRLS is a state and federally funded non-profit organization that provides support services to the libraries and residents of Hampden, Hampshire, Berkshire, and Franklin counties. Membership in WMRLS is open to any library within Western Massachusetts that meets the basic requirements set by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. WMRLS offers workshops and courses designed for library trustees and school committees, reference support and bookmobile services, advisory and technical assistance to member libraries so that they may address local issues and policies, as well as assistance and planning for Summer Reading Programs.

USDA Rural Development provided \$1,226,748 for the construction of WMRLS's new headquarters in the Whately Industrial Park.

WHO: State Senator, Stanley Rosenberg

State Representatives Stephen Kulik and Ellen Story

Library Commissioner, Deborah Bornheimer

Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts President, Kent

Faerber

Regional President of Fleet Bank, Richard Zilewicz USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle Representatives of libraries across Western Massachusetts

WHAT: Groundbreaking ceremony

WHERE: 4 Industrial Drive, Whately, MA.

Route 91 to Route 5 & 10 to Route 116 South.

Take first right onto Pine Street to Long Plain Road.

Industrial Drive is on the left, 3/10 of a mile off of Long Plain Road.

WHEN: Friday, May 14, 2004

1:00 PM

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